

Please amend the following of the claims which are pending in the present application:

1. (Original) A device (01, 20, 22) for driving away insects (03, 08) moving along the ground, in particular, termites, in order to protect buildings or building parts, with a support element (12, 21, 23) made from an electrical insulating material and at least two electrical conductive elements (04, 05, 06) arranged spaced-apart thereon parallel to one another, between which an electrical voltage can be applied by means of a voltage source,

characterized in that,

the distance between the conductive elements (04, 05, 05) is at least minimally smaller than the length of the insects (03, 08) to be driven away, so that the insects (03, 08), upon passing the support element (12, 21, 23) in a direction transverse to the conductive elements (04, 05, 06) form a current-conducting connection between the conductive elements (04, 05, 06), wherein the conductive elements (04, 05, 06) run vertically offset in different heights, and wherein between the lower most conductive element (06) and the surface (07) lying thereunder, at least one minimal height difference is provided.

2. (Original) The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the support element (12, 21, 23) is formed as a smooth surface on the side of the conductive elements (04, 05, 06).

3. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1 [[or 2]], characterized in that a connecting surface (09, 10) extends upwardly between the conductive elements (04, 05, 06) or hangs over the surface (07).

4. (Currently amended) The device according to ~~one of claims 1 through 3~~ claim 1, characterized in that with the formation of an intermediate chamber above the conductive elements (04, 05, 06), a protective element (11) is arranged, which protects the conductive elements (04, 05, 06) from moisture.

5. (Original) The device according to claim 4, characterized in that the protective element (11) extends at least partially downwardly.

6. (Currently amended) The device according to ~~one of claims 1 through 5~~ claim 1, characterized in that the support element (23) is formed in the manner of an elastically deformable film at least along its longitudinal axis running parallel to the conductive elements (04, 05, 06).

7. (Currently amended) The device according to ~~one of claims 1 through 5~~ claim 1, characterized in that the support element (21) is formed in the manner of a stably formed profile strip, whose lower end can be pressed into the ground (14).

8. (Currently amended) The device according to ~~one of claims 1 through 5~~  
claim 1, characterized in that the support element (12) is formed in the manner of a  
profile strip, which is attachable to a barrier device (02) that is a natural barrier for  
the insects.

9. (Original) The device according to claim 8, characterized in that the barrier  
device (02) is formed in the manner of a square timber.

10. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 8 [[or 9]], characterized  
in that on the barrier device (02), a film (13) extending downwardly into the  
ground is attached.

11. (Currently amended) The device according to ~~one of claims 8 through 10~~  
claim 8, characterized in that the support element (12) is formed in the manner of  
an angular profile, wherein on the outer side of one of the legs (14), the conductive  
elements (04, 05, 06) are arranged, and wherein the inner sides of both legs (15, 16),  
upon attachment of the support element (12), come into contact at least partially  
on the barrier device.

12. (Original) The device according to claim 11, characterized in that at least  
one leg (16) of the angular profile has recesses, in order to attached the profile  
strip by mounting of attachment means, in particular, screws or nails, to the

barrier device (02).

13. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 11 ~~[[or 12]]~~, characterized in that the inner sides of the two legs (15, 16) of the angular profile form an angle less than 90°, wherein both legs (15, 16) are connected at least partly elastically deformably with one another.

14. (Currently amended) The device according to ~~one of claims 11 through 13~~ claim 11, characterized in that on the lower end of one of the legs (15), an elastic sealing element (17), in particular, a sealing lip made of rubber, is formed.

15. (Currently amended) The device according to ~~one of claims 1 through 14~~ claim 1, characterized in that the end of the support element (12, 21) can be connected by means of a coupling device (18) with a further profile strip, whereby an electrical connection between associated conductive elements (04, 05, 06) is formed.

16. (Original) The device according to claim 15, characterized in that the coupling device (18) can be attached to the ends of the support element (12, 21).

17. (Currently amended) The device according to ~~one of claims 1 through 16~~ claim 1, characterized in that the conductive elements (04, 05, 06) have a spacing of

5 to 50 mm, in particular, a spacing of 10 to 20 mm.

18. (Currently amended) The device according to ~~one of claims 1 through 17~~  
claim 1, characterized in that the conductive elements (04, 05, 06) are formed by  
conductive wires, in particular, made from copper or aluminum.

19. (Currently amended) The device according to ~~one of claims 1 through 18~~  
claim 1, characterized in that between the conductive elements (04, 05, 06), a  
supply voltage of 200V to 5000V is applied.

20. (Currently amended) The device according to ~~one of claims 1 through 19~~  
claim 1, characterized in that with formation of a current-conducting connection  
between the conductive elements (04, 05, 06), a current with a power of 0.1 to 0.6  
Joules flows.

21. (Currently amended) The device according to ~~one of claims 1 through 20~~  
claim 1, characterized in that the support element (21) is made from thermoplastic  
plastic, in particular, PVC.

22. (Currently amended) The device according to ~~one of claims 1 through 21~~  
claim 1, characterized in that on the device (25, 27), four conductive elements (26,  
28) are provided, which extend parallel to one another along the longitudinal axis

of the device (25, 27).

23. (Currently amended) The device according to ~~one of claims 1 through 22~~ claim 1, characterized in that conductive elements (26, 28) adjacent to one another are connected with different polarity to the voltage source.

24. (Currently amended) The device according to ~~one of claims 1 through 23~~ claim 1, characterized in that the conductive elements (26) are formed to be wavy along their longitudinal axes.

25. (Currently amended) The device according to ~~one of claims 1 through 23~~ claim 1, characterized in that the conductive elements (28) are formed to be forked along their longitudinal axes.

26. (Currently amended) The device according to ~~one of claims 1 through 23~~ claim 1, characterized in that the forked section of the conductive elements (28) run at an angle of  $5^{\circ}$  to  $22^{\circ}$ , in particular, at an angle of approximately  $16^{\circ}$ .